To: [] Cc: []

Bcc: CN=Scott Fraser/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US[]
From: CN=Gillian Backus/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US

Sent: Thur 11/6/2008 1:51:24 PM
Subject: ELN Link Newsletter Number 33

ELN Retreat 2008notes.doc ELN Retreat 08.JPG gaber.noha@epa.gov backus.gillian@epa.gov gaber.noha@epa.gov

http://www.dc.sierraclub.org/outings.asp

http://www.habitat.org/cd/local/

http://www.cityyear.org/localcontent.aspx?id=2069

http://higherachievement.org/?section_id=24&content_id=81§ion_group_id=14

http://www.uss.salvationarmy.org/uss/www_uss_natcaparea.nsf

http://www.foodandfriends.org/site/pp.asp?c=ggLMIYOGKrF&b=1851033

http://www.some.org/

http://www.some.org/inv_eve_trot.html http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-fall.htm

http://www.dc.sierraclub.org/news/detail.asp?ID=90

http://www.fueleconomy.gov

http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/index.htm

http://cfpub.epa.gov/schools/index.cfm http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-fall.htm

http://www.foodandfriends.org/

http://www.foodandfriends.org/site/pp.asp?c=ggLMIYOGKrF&b=1851039

http://www.govloop.com/?xgi=1tZP6ZF

http://www.greenfestivals.org/washington-dc-2008/

www.roomtoread.org

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=events.event_summary&event_id=484808

soc.american.edu/cef environmentalfilm.org

filmmakersforconservation.org

http://www.nbm.org/Events/Calendar/Lectures Symposia.html

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Connecting EPA's Emerging Leaders!

NOVEMBER 2008 ELN THANKS You

for participating in the ELN retreat!

ELN Link, sent bi-weekly, includes Crew announcements, reminders of ELN events and announcements for other relevant EPA and DC area events, activities and professional development opportunities that may be of interest to ELNers. If you know of an event that you think ELNers would like to know about, please send an email to Gillian Backus (backus.gillian@epa.gov) or Noha Gaber (gaber.noha@epa.gov).

Inclusion of an event doesn't necessarily signify endorsement by ELN or ELN members. You are encouraged to get your management's approval to attend outside events during work hours. In many cases, they can be considered as "continuous learning".

Do you know something about solar, water, wind, urban development, climate change, ecology, toxicology, legal issues surrounding environmental policy, oceans, wildlife, economics and environment etc?

Political action events, protests, and rallies will not be posted here. The posted events serve for information and educational purposes only.

Hints: Follow live links for further information

ELNers are encouraged to follow weblinks to identify other (non-environmental or activist events) available at a particular venue. For example, organizations and think tanks often have interesting lunch seminar series (and offer free lunch!), but only environmental topics will be highlighted in the ELN link.

Remember to click on the heading to see a more thorough description of the event, and learn about logistics. To print, expand any section you wish to appear on your printout before pressing the "Print" key.

Feedback is always welcome!!! backus.gillian@epa.gov or gaber.noha@epa.gov

The next issue will be sent out November 20, 2008.

General Information: Check out Volunteer Opportunities in DC

Sierra Club: http://www.dc.sierraclub.org/outings.asp Habitat for Humanity: http://www.habitat.org/cd/local/

City Year (good opportunities for MLK Day) http://www.cityyear.org/localcontent.aspx?id=2069

Higher Achievement, tutoring program

http://higherachievement.org/?section_id=24&content_id=81§ion_group_id=14 Salvation Army http://www.uss.salvationarmy.org/uss/www_uss_natcaparea.nsf

Food and Friends http://www.foodandfriends.org/site/pp.asp?c=ggLMIYOGKrF&b=1851033

So Others Might Eat (SOME) http://www.some.org/

SOME Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day! http://www.some.org/inv_eve_trot.html

Explore Tips for a Green Fall on EPA's Web site:

http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-fall.htm

Considering a winter painting project? Consider Eco-friendly painting!

So you have just come home from having been stuck in rush hour traffic, walking along polluted sidewalks, breathing in the exhaust of the bus that just noisily passed by you. You close your front door, leaving behind the hustle and bustle of today's commute, kick off your shoes, plunge into the recliner, totally relax and take a deep breath ... well, perhaps not that deep a breath.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), your very own "home air" can be between two to five times more polluted than that of a downtown street; yes, we are talking K Street during rush hour or U Street on a hot and busy day. But how can that be possible?

The sources of air pollutants inside our homes are very subtle and low in odor. They consist of gases that contain VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) and other harmful chemicals. These toxic fumes are emitted from carpets, wood stains and paints – paints that have been used to cover all the walls at home, including bedrooms where we spend about eight hours a day sleeping and breathing.

There are a few ways to keep your home relatively VOC-free -- try fume-less paints! To find out more, visit

http://www.dc.sierraclub.org/news/detail.asp?ID=90

ELN News and Events

ELN Retreat 2008
Thanks for coming!
Everyone who came had a great time!
Didn't make it? Here's the buzz....

ELN membership now exceeds 500 members from across EPA's offices! Welcome to all the new ELN members!

REMEMBER: Your ideas make ELN work!

Core Crew: Noha Gaber, Scott Fraser

Treasurer: Patrick Yellin

Professional Development Crew: Richard Callan, Gilbert Castellanos

Social Activities Crew: Robert Courtnage

Community Service Crew: Anna Stark, Paula Zampieri

Orientation Crew: Emma Zinsmeister

Communications Crew: Gillian Backus (Newsletter), Scott Fraser (Portal), Noha Gaber (General

marketing)

Important Message about RSVPing for ELN Events:

If announcement is sent out as a calendar scheduler, please RSVP by "accepting" the meeting invite.

If the announcement is sent out as an email, please RSVP by sending an email to eeln@epa.gov, unless otherwise indicated. Please do not send an email to "EPA Emerging Leaders Network" as that is the email distribution list and any email that is sent to it is sent out to all of the 490+ ELN members. We want to reduce unneccessary emails, so please be careful.

If you RSVP for an event, please make sure that you attend or that you let us know if your plans change and you will not be able to attend.

Join ELN on LinkedIn!

Just click on this link: http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/807847

ELN Community Service Goes to the DC Green Festival November 7-9, 2008. Join us!

EnvironMentors

Contact EnvironMentors at www.environmentors.org Contact: Jacklyn Shafir at jshaif@ncseonline.org, 202-530-5810 ext 236

Or Contact EPA Community Service Crew Leads: Anna Stark and Paula Zampieri

Join us this weekend! DC Green Festival, November 7-9, 2008!

Come join the ELN Community Service Crew at the Washington DC Green Festival™, a joint project of Global Exchange and Co-op America. Individuals along with business and community leaders come together to discuss critical issues that impact us at home and abroad. Organizations and businesses showcase programs and products that restore the planet and all that inhabit it. The Green Festival is an annual event that is always a big hit, a lot of fun to get involved with, and there is always a need for volunteers.

If you are interested please register to volunteer at - http://www.greenfestivalvolunteers.org/dc/

A. ELN White Paper on Vision for EPA in 2014. Volunteers needed!

B. Coming-up: Green buildings movie and roundtable discussion EPA and China Mentoring Event Administration Transition

Contact: Rich Callan, Noha Gaber, Lauren Spath

- 1. CFC happy hour (TBA!)
- 2. Calling all skiers and winter enthusiasts!

Help needed to plan the annual ski trip in January or February, possibly @ Snowshoe

Other Ideas...

If you love these ideas and want to participate, please consider volunteering to organize one. It's best to spread around the facilitation work among members, and it doesn't have to be onerous!

Just pick a date and time, and place to meet. We'll help you market it! bowling (need a coordinator) wine tasting (need an organizer)

Baltimore Aquarium trip (need an organizer)

Fall hike for Foliage Peeping (need an organizer) and of course, our FABULOUS Ski Trip in the winter!

Have an idea for an event and want to help plan one?? Contact: Robert Courtnage and Patrick Yellin

Stay tuned as ELN continues to research and build ways to connect our growing community

Contact: Scott Fraser

General EPA Announcements (Non-ELN)

Tune into EPA's TV network for key issues pertinent to EPA employees...November programs...

Several months ago (August 2008) ELN hosted a brainstorming discussion on "Providing Input to EPA's Presidential Transition Information". Based on all the great feedback ELN members provided on what you want to know about the transition, Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock and three senior members of EPA's transition team are ready to fill you on the Agency's transition plans and how transition will impact you.

An archived version of the "Transition 2008-2009" IP-TV broadcast, originally broadcasted at 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on Monday, October 20 will be available from your desktop computer beginning October 27, 2008.

November 10, 2008: Emergency Response

Have you ever wondered if the EPA is adequately prepared to respond to the next emergency? Here's your chance to find out the status of emergency response preparedness at EPA. Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock will meet with OSWER Assistant Administrator Susan Bodine and other senior managers at 3 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, November 10th for a live, internal broadcast on EPA Emergency Response on IP-TV. They will discuss where the Agency is on its emergency response preparedness, how we got here, where we are going in the future, and what role EPA employees play through the Response Support Corps (RSC).

November 14, 2008: Hypoxia

Want to know what the EPA is doing to improve the hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico? Tune into IP-TV at 1 p.m. Eastern Time on November 14th to get an update on the progress EPA has made in addressing hypoxia and watch as senior leaders discuss the next steps the Agency can take. Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock will meet with OW Assistant Administrator Benjamin Grumbles and other senior leaders to discuss the Agency progress towards meeting the interagency 2015 goals of reducing the hypoxic zone, restoring and protecting waters and improving the communities and economic conditions throughout the Mississippi River Basin.

For more information on "Transition 2008-2009" IP-TV broadcast visit the Continuous Learning Center.

US EPA NEWS RELEASE: Autumn Alchemy, Converting Red and Gold into Green

Contact (news media only): Dale Kemery, (202) 564-4355 / kemery.dale@epa.gov

(Washington, D.C. - Oct. 21, 2008) With frost tickling the pumpkin patch and red-and-gold leaves carpeting the land, there's no question what time of year it is. Fall heralds the start of cooler weather, making it prime time to hunker down and assess your environmental footprint.

You can learn and have fun while making a difference in the quality of the environment in your community, participate in competitions, and more. Here are some cool things to do inside and outside of the classroom.

Driving and Commuting

Do you need a new vehicle to take the kids to school? Fuel economy ratings for new model-year cars are available in October. You have a choice to buy a vehicle that's cleaner and more fuel efficient. Learn more by visiting EPA's Green Vehicle Guide to find the cleanest, most fuel efficient vehicle that meets your needs. Check additional, detailed information about fuel economy at EPA and Department of Energy's jointly run Web site at: http://www.fueleconomy.gov

School = Kids + Buses

Have you noticed all those school buses lined up in front of school with the engines running? Do your kids and the environment a favor and ask school officials to adopt a no-idling policy. Idling school buses waste fuel and pollute the air. Children are especially sensitive to diesel exhaust, which causes respiratory problems and worsens allergies and asthma. Learn more about clean school buses at: http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/index.htm

Healthy School Environments

More than 53 million children and almost 3 million adults spend a significant portion of their days in approximately 112,000 public and private school buildings, many of which are old and inadequately maintained, and which often contain environmental conditions that inhibit learning and pose increased risks to the health of children and staff. EPA's Healthy School Environments will help facility managers, school administrators, architects, design engineers, school nurses, parents, and teachers find the resources they need to address environmental health issues in schools. Read about healthy schools at: http://cfpub.epa.gov/schools/index.cfm

For many other environmental and conservation tips, explore Tips for a Green Fall on EPA's Web site at: http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-fall.htm

R287

Note: If a link above doesn't work, please copy and paste the URL into a browser.

OPEI Invites You to VOLUNTEER at Food & Friends, Washington DC

OPEI is organizing (and looking for additional volunteers) a monthly visit to the non-profit Food & Friends in Washington. We volunteer the fourth Wednesday of every month. Upcoming dates for sign-up are: 11/26/08, (Skip December since it is on 12/24/08), 1/28/2009. More details summarized in message below:

Food and Friends is the only nonprofit serving freshly prepared, nutritious meals and groceries to people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other life challenging illnesses.

Food & Friends is located at 219 Riggs Road, NE Washington, DC (near the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue, NE). The facility is very accessible by Metro via the Fort Totten station. Parking is available on site, as well. Learn more here: http://www.foodandfriends.org/

We volunteer to assist in the kitchen or pantry. That means we either prepare or package meals. The kitchen staff tells us our specific assignments each time that we arrive.

We hope to develop a roster of 20+ OPEI and other EPA volunteers for a consistent monthly volunteer

schedule. Then, we'll set up a rotating schedule, taking into account vacations, etc. Ask your supervisor to ensure that you can arrive at Food and Friends promptly at 5:30pm.

If you'd rather not join our EPA Team but want to help out Food & Friends, you can make a donation or volunteer in another way. Donation info is here:

http://www.foodandfriends.org/site/pp.asp?c=ggLMIYOGKrF&b=1851039

You can donate to Food & Friends via the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC); CFC code is #52114.

Contact: Tracey Westfield (202-564-5586; westfield.tracey@epa.gov) or Caryn Muellerleile (202-564-2855; muellerleile.caryn@epa.gov) in OPEI and tell us:

If you can join us in 2008 on 8/27, 9/24, 10/22 from 5:30 - 8:00.

If you'd prefer to drive or Metro to the facility.

If you'd like to volunteer in future months.

Fellow EPAers remind you: The DC Environmental Film Festival is coming in March 2009!

Fellow EPAer Art Donner asked us to: please share this information with co-workers, family and friends.

The DC Environmental Film Festival is planned for March 11-22, 2009

http://intranet.epa.gov/pesticides/events/2009%20DC%20EFF%20Program%20Summary.pdf

For more details, after they are posted on the DC Environmental Film Festival website, please visit:

http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org

Non-EPA Non-ELN Announcements

Announcing GovLoop.com - The NEW Social Network Connecting the Government Community

GovLoop is the social network developed by and for the government community. This site is the true "Facebook for Feds" and provides a great way for the government community (gov't employees, students, and contractors) to connect and collaborate with existing and potential colleagues. The network is a great resource whether you are looking to network with peers, get career advice, find new opportunities, or discover great career events; an absolute must for today's gov't leaders.

Join now to:

- * Network with Other Gov't Colleagues
- * Read Blogs with Tips from Peers
- * Ask and Answer Questions in the Forums
- * Find and Add Events to Calendar
- * Create and Join Interest Groups
- * Discover New Opportunities and Career Resources

Please click the link, fill out a quick profile, and join the conversation: http://www.govloop.com/?xgi=1tZP6ZF

TONIGHT! Thursday, November 6, 2008: Climate Change, Prospects for Nature, and the Role of the Biosphere

Thursday, November 6, 2008: 5 pm

AAAS: 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (one block from Metro Center, Red, Orange and

Blue Lines)

Alan Leshner, Chief Executive Officer of AAAS, and Kazuo Furukawa, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hitachi, Ltd., are pleased to invite you to the First Annual AAAS-Hitachi Lecture on Science and Society.

The speaker will be Thomas E. Lovejoy, President of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment. The title of Dr. Lovejoy's address will be "Climate Change, Prospects for Nature, and the Role of the Biosphere."

Prior to taking his current position in 2002, Dr. Lovejoy was the World Bank's Chief Biodiversity Advisor and Lead Specialist for Environment for Latin America. Dr. Lovejoy has been Assistant Secretary and Counselor to the Secretary at the Smithsonian Institution, Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior, and Executive Vice President of the World Wildlife Fund-U.S. In 2001 he was awarded the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement. Dr. Lovejoy served on science and environmental councils or committees under the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations. He received his B. S. and Ph.D. (biology) degrees from Yale University.

Coffee starting at 4:30 p.m. A reception will follow the lecture. AAAS is located one block from Metro Center. Please enter the building through the 12th & H Street entrance.

To RSVP, please go to http://www.aaas.org/spp/events.shtml

November 8-9, 2008. All DAY! DC GREEN FESTIVAL,

http://www.greenfestivals.org/washington-dc-2008/ Saturday 10AM - 7PM Sunday Nov. 11AM - 6PM

Washington D.C. Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW, Washington, DC 20001

At the Washington DC Green Festival™, a joint project of Global Exchange and Co-op America, we're celebrating what's working in our communities—across the District, Maryland and Virginia—for people, for business and for the environment.

You'll enjoy more than 125 renowned speakers and 350 green businesses (start your holiday shopping now!), great how-to workshops, green films, a Fair Trade pavilion, yoga classes, organic beer, delicious organic cuisine and live music.

Find out about DC environmental initiatives; and learn how neighbors, community nonprofits and city departments are working together to make their cities healthier places to live.

Speakers include:

William McDonough Barbara Ehrenreich Majora Carter John Perkins Amy Goodman Lester Brown Caroline Casey Madeline Kunin Hervé Kempf Marion Nestle Andy Shallal Sharif Abdullah Paul Stamets

Better World Books and Green Festival are partnering to offer \$5 off Green Festival registration (at the door) to attendees who bring in 3 or more books. Your donated books will be sold on www.BetterWorld.com to help fund girls' scholarships in developing countries in Asia through Room to Read. www.roomtoread.org

LIVE WEBCAST: November 13, 2008: A Changing Climate in China: Looking Beyond Kyoto Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

November 13 2008, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Speakers:

PAN Jiahua, Research Center for Urban and Environmental Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

CHENG Hongbo, Research Center for Urban and Environmental Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

WANG Mou, Research Center for Urban and Environmental Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Unrestrained development and industrialization throughout the country makes China particularly vulnerable to the increasing changes of climate. Extreme ecological events—such as snowstorms, floods, and droughts—are now common news headlines in China. Experts estimate that China's glaciers will disappear between 2035 and 2050. Forty percent of the world's population depends on rivers originating in the Himalayas and on the Tibetan plateau—rivers that depend heavily on these glaciers. China, with its economy based mainly on heavy industry and coal for cheap energy, emits high levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs)—recently overtaking the United States as the global emitter of carbon dioxide—ultimately accelerating global warming and climate change. China is building a new 1,000-megawatt coal-fired power plant every week, and it consumes half the world's cement, a quarter of all steel, and two-fifths of all copper. The Chinese government has begun to adopt stricter energy conservation legislation, but has repeatedly resisted international GHG reduction targets.

The deadline for creating a post-2012 climate regime is fast approaching with the Copenhagen meetings set for 2009. The steps taken by the top two carbon producers—the United States and China—are central to the success of these international climate talks. In this China Environment Forum meeting, speakers from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Research Center for Urban and Environmental Studies will examine the evolution of China's positions in climate change negotiations, China's interests in addressing climate change, why China refuses to commit to a reduction target, and China's perspective on the post-2012 climate regime. The speakers will emphasize how the regime can more effectively engage China and how China and the United States can work together on climate.

Visit http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=events.event_summary&event_id=484808

Tuesday, November 11 & 18, Wednesday November 19: American University's Center for Environmental Fimmaking Fall Film Series!

AU's Center for Environmental Filmmaking and Filmmakers for Conservation Present: The 4th Annual Fall Film Series Hosted by Chris Palmer and Justine Schmidt All shows are held in the Wechsler Theater at 7pm on Tuesdays 3rd Floor, Mary Graydon Center, American University

4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016-8017

Admission is FREE!

Open to the Public!

1. Classroom in the Wild. Extreme HD Alaska!

Larry Engel and Students, School of Communication, American University

Tuesday, November 11

We made it! Learn how twelve brave students faced survival instructor Brian Horner, Professor/filmmaker Larry Engel and the Alaskan wilderness for eight days and came back unscathed (relatively). Professor Engel will lead a presentation of the experience that will include video, photos, and several of the students themselves.

2. Salmon Versus Gold: Red Gold

Travis Rummel and Lauren Oakes

Tuesday, November 18

Cosponsored by the Turner Foundation

Join us for a screening of the award-winning film Red Gold documenting the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska 's Bristol Bay, followed by a discussion with the filmmakers about Alaska 's choice between salmon and gold.

3. The Best of the Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival

Michael Hanrahan and Justine Schmidt

Wednesday, November 19

Details to come!

For more information, contact Chris Palmer at 202-885-3408 or Justine Schmidt at 202-413-4490, or visit soc.american.edu/cef or environmentalfilm.org or filmmakersforconservation.org.

Tuesday, November 18, 2008 RESCHEDULED to January 2009: A New Climate of Change

Please note that this November seminar has been RESCHEDULED for January 2009 Resources for the Future, Wednesday Seminar Series, 1616 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20036

Please Note: This event is currently being rescheduled for early January 2009. Details to follow.

This joint event co-sponsored with the Commonwealth Club of California entitled "A New Climate of Change." The discussion will include a keynote address by Mary D. Nichols, chairman of California's Air Resources Board. This full-day event will take place in Washington, DC.

Contact: (202) 328-5000

Thursday, November 20, 6 pm: YGL's Give Thanks! Food Drive Happy Hour

Thursday November 20 6pm - 8pm

Young Government Leaders meet at the Dubliner (Union Station)

Bring in a non perishable food item to the happy hour for DC Food Banks.

Monday, November 24, 2008: For the Greener Good: Wanted: Power; Location: Anywhere but Here Monday, November 24, 2008, 6:30pm - 8:00 pm

National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, between 4th and 5th Streets, across the street from the Judiciary Square Metro (Red Line).

To register visit: http://www.nbm.org/Events/Calendar/Lectures_Symposia.html
As the country's appetite for energy grows, there is a consensus that we need more power. But who wants a nuclear plant, wind farm, or transmission lines in their back yard? A panel featuring

representatives from the Department of Energy; Tyson Slocum, director the non-profit group Public Citizen's energy program; the Mayor of Port Gibson, Mississippi Fred Reeves; and New York Times journalist Matthew Wald, explore this heated issue.

\$12 Member | FREE Student | \$20 Non-member

Prepaid registration required. Walk-in registration based on availability

http://www.nbm.org/programs-lectures/programs/november-2008/for-the-greener-good-wanted.html